

GLOSSARY AND ABBREVIATIONS

This glossary provides brief definitions of some technical terms used in the handbook. Special effort was made to include those that are used repeatedly or that may cause confusion because they have a number of different meanings (e.g., colloquial versus technical). It does not provide definitions of many medical terms used in the Background section of the chapters to describe a disease because it is assumed that if the reader wishes to obtain more detailed information on a disease they will consult a medical text book. Commonly used abbreviations are also included with their full spelling.

antineoplastic: anticarcinogenic.
ATSDR: Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Reduction.
carcinomas: malignant tumor.
CDC Centers For Disease Control.
cellular proliferation: cell growth.
CFS: chronic fatigue syndrome.
chelation therapy: therapy to remove metals.
chemotherapeutics: chemical therapy, usually.
chromosomal aberrations.
chronic bioassays: studies over long periods of time.
congenital anomalies: birth abnormalities.
COPD: chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.
CPI: consumer price index.
CPT: current procedural terminology.
CT: computerized tomography.
cytogenic abnormalities: cell abnormalities.
DRG: diagnostically related group.
EKG: electrocardiogram.
embryogenesis: development of an embryo.
environmental agents (e.g., DDT and its metabolites).
ER: emergency room.
ETS: environmental tobacco smoke.
FEV: forced expiratory volume.
genotoxicity: toxic to genetic material.
GI: gastrointestinal.
hepatic: liver.
heritable cell lines: genetic information passed from one generation to the next.
histology: cell evaluation.
HMO: Health Maintenance Organization.
HSDB: Hazardous Substances Data Base.
ICD: International Classification of Disease.
immunotherapy: therapy involving the immune system.
indigent population: population with very limited financial resources.
involvement of nodes: lymph node pathology.
IV: intervenous.
latency period: time between exposure and disease onset or detection.
LRI: lower respiratory infection.

metastaticize: pathological spread of disease.
MRI: magnetic resonance imagery.
mucosa: mucous membranes.
mutagenicity: causing genetic change.
NAS: National Academy of Sciences.
NCHS: National Center for Health Statistics.
NCI: National Cancer Institute.
NHLBI: National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.
NIH: National Institutes of Health.
OTC: over the counter.
palliative care: care for terminally ill patients.
peripheral neuropathy: nerve damage affecting limbs.
placental barrier: barrier preventing transfer of some materials from mother to fetus.
sarcomas: malignant tumor of specific mesenchymal origin.
SNF: skilled nursing facility.
somatic cell lines: genetic information relevant to one individual, not heritable.
TRI: Toxic Release Inventory.
URI: upper respiratory infection.
WTP: willingness-to-pay.
xenoestrogens: estrogens introduced from outside sources.